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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/616,643	07/14/2000	Caleb E. Welton	1958.2004-000	6573

21005 7590 08/27/2002

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EXAMINER

ALAM, SHAHID AL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/616,643

Applicant(s)

WELTON ET AL.

Examiner

Shahid Al Alam

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 24-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19-23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. The claims 1 – 40 are pending in this office action.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The reference cited in the information disclosure statement submitted on December 11, 2000, paper number 2 has been considered.

Drawings

3. New formal drawings are required in this application because the drawings are objected to by the Draftsperson. Form PTO 948 is enclosed. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 24 is objected to because of the following informalities:

In the claim 24, line 2, there is a spelling error after the term and "an database engine", should be "a database engine".

Appropriate correction is required.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1 – 18 and 24 – 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,943,677 issued to Grant Hicks (“Hicks”) and in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,163,774 issued to Michael Lore et al. (“Lore”).

With respect to claims 1, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40, Hicks teaches a method of storing data values in a multidimensional database (column 9, lines 63 – 64) comprising:

identifying a plurality of dimensions, wherein each of the dimensions is indicative of a plurality of storage locations (column 1, lines 21 – 23);

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the hierarchy is indicative of an association between the attributes (column 4, lines 54 – 67 and Table 1 indicate association between time, region and product);

attributing a plurality of data values to each of the attributes and storing the data values on a storage medium based on the data values indicated by the hierarchy (column 1, lines 23 – 30).

Hicks does not explicitly teaches identifying a hierarchy of attributes within at least one of the dimensions as claimed.

Lore discloses claimed hierarchy of attributes within at least one of the dimensions (see abstract, column 4, lines 42 – 57).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Lore with Hicks to improve the system performance as such the combination would now process a reduced number of rows (Lore, column 3, lines 66 – 67).

As to claim 2, the data values are stored on the storage medium in proximity to associated data values, wherein the associated data values are attributed to associated attributes as indicated by the hierarchy (column 4, lines 40 – 44, Hicks).

As to claim 3, the data values further comprise aggregate values and detail values (see Figure 3A and 3B, column 4, lines 43 – 59, Hicks).

As to claim 4, each of the aggregate values includes at least one of other data values (see Figure 3A and 3B, column 4, lines 43 – 59, Hicks).

As to claim 5, the aggregate values comprise at least one detail value (see Figure 3A and 3B, column 4, lines 43 – 59, Hicks).

As to claim 6, the aggregate values further comprise at least one data value selected from the group consisting of aggregate values and detail values (see Figure 3A and 3B, column 4, lines 43 – 59, Hicks).

As to claim 7, the association is a parent-child association between an aggregate value and at least one child data value (see Figure 3B, Hicks).

As to claim 8, the association is between an aggregate value and at least one data value (see Figure 3B, Hicks).

As to claim 9, the hierarchy defines a plurality of levels, wherein each of the aggregate values on one level includes the data values on a successive level (see Figure 3B, top level, L3 is District level and represent aggregate values and L2 is Product level and L1 is detail level, Hicks).

As to claim 10, the association is an inclusion of the plurality of data values in the aggregate value (see L3 of Figure 3B, column 4, lines 44 – 49, Hicks).

As to claim 11, each of the data values associated with an aggregate values are stored proximate to the other data values associated with the same aggregate value as indicated by the hierarchy (see Figure 3A, column 4, lines 40 – 44, Hicks).

As to claim 12, the proximate values are stored adjacently (see Figure 3A, column 4, lines 40 – 44, Hicks).

As to claim 13, storing the aggregate value on the storage medium adjacent to the associated data values (column 4, lines 40 – 49, Hicks).

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As to claim 14, the data values in a storage segment are manipulated concurrently (column 2, lines 29 – 41).

As to claims 15 – 18, the storage medium is a disk cache and the storage segments are cache pages corresponding to pages on a disk; storing the data values on a common cache page; the storage medium is a disk and the storage segments are disk pages and storing on a common disk page (see Figure 1, column 4, lines 2 – 14).

With respect to claim 24, Hicks teaches a multidimensional database (see title and abstract) comprising:

- a memory (10) having a cache (18) and a database engine (12);

- a mass storage device (30) in communication with the memory and operable to store a plurality of data value;

- a kernel (13) included in the database engine, wherein the kernel is operable to manipulate data values between the memory, the cache, and the mass storage device; and a sparsity manager (15) is operable to determine a storage organization of the data values (see Figure 1).

Hicks teaches levels L1, L2 and L3 in Figure 3B, which are a form of hierarchy but Hicks does not explicitly indicate a predetermined hierarchy as claimed.

Lore discloses claimed hierarchical levels (column 4, lines 42 – 57).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Lore with Hicks to improve the system performance as such the combination would now process a reduced number of rows (Lore, column 3, lines 66 – 67).

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The subject matter of claims 25 – 35 are rejected in the analysis claims 2 – 18 above, therefore these claims 25 – 35 are also rejected.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 19 – 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggests in combination elements as recited in claim 19, wherein aggregating at least one of the dimensions having a hierarchy by traversing each of the aggregate values included in the dimension; and including, in an aggregation total, the associated data values corresponding to the aggregate value.

Claims 20 – 23 are dependent on claim 19 and these claims, 20 – 23 further limits the subject matter of allowable claim 19.

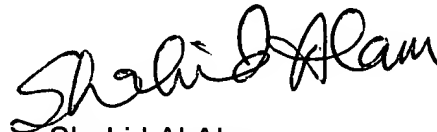
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Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shahid Al Alam whose telephone number is (703) 305-2358. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



Shahid Al Alam
Examiner
Art Unit 2172

SAA
August 21, 2002